

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 3, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Initially, applicant would like to acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 38 and 39.

Claims 32-37 and 39 are pending, claims 38 and 40 – 42 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 34 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph for the reasons cited in the action. Applicant has amended claim 34 to remove the "smoothing" cited by the Examiner and has clarified the claim in accordance with the invention description in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 32-37 and 40-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentably over Mankovitz (U.S. Patent No. 5,541,738) in view of Mugura (U.S. Patent No. 6,518,986) in further view of Mankovitz (U.S. Patent No. 5,677,895).

In accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowability of claim 38, applicant has amended independent claim 32 to include the recitations of claim 38. Claim 38 has been canceled.

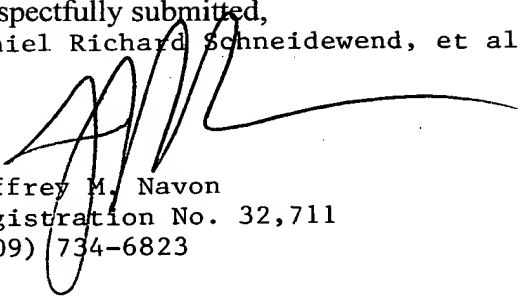
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims set forth in the Office Action of February 3, 2004 be withdrawn, that pending claims 32-37 and 39 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in

connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's Deposit Account

No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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